

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

A Quiet Day in the Wall Street Markets.

Congressional Experimental Legislation.

Permission to Pay Customs Duties in Paper Money Regarded as the First Step Toward Repudiation.

SUGGESTIVE FIGURES.

How the Coin Revenue of the Country is Pledged and What It is Worth.

GOVERNMENTS FEVERISH.

Stocks Quiet, Southern Securities Firm and Railway Mortgages Steady.

Money Easy and Foreign Exchange Unchanged.

TREASURY BALANCES.

WALL STREET, FRIDAY, MAY 17—(P. M.)

On "Change-to-day" was unsettled, but, notwithstanding a decline, shippers still held off. Flour was pressed for sale upon a more moderate demand, the market closing lower. Cotton was dull and homalously steady.

A QUIET DAY prevailed in the several Wall street markets, with at times extreme dullness. Even Pacific Mail, upon the publication of the withdrawal of the Broad Street party from the struggle to control the election, lost its special interest, and, although still the leading feature, ranged, without excitement, within a margin of 1½ per cent.

STOCKS WERE GENERALLY EXTREMELY DULL, the only buyers of Pacific Mail being of that class who religiously disbelieve everything that appears in a Washington despatch that the supplementary act and bill, being accustomed to play safe and addle all their lives, do not comprehend an independent journalist in the trials and temptations of Wall Street. After Pacific Mail, Erie, Ohio and Northwestern were the favorites; but the speculation was of an exceedingly tame order, the widest fluctuation being 1½ per cent and tapering off to ½ per cent. At the close the market had reacted from the lowest point and was nearly at the highest point of the day. The following were the highest and lowest prices of stocks during the day:

Stock	Highest	Lowest
New York Central	125 1/2	125
New York Central scrip	92 1/2	92
Erie	125 1/2	125
Lake Shore	95 1/2	95
Wabash	75 1/2	75
Northwestern	75 1/2	75
Rock Island	113 1/2	113
Illinois Central	69 1/2	69
St. Paul	109 1/2	109
Chicago and North Western	109 1/2	109
Chicago and Ind. Central	38 1/2	38
Hannibal and St. Joseph	43 1/2	43
Western Union	118 1/2	118
Pacific Mail	83 1/2	83
Quicksilver	40 1/2	40
American Mercantile Union Ex.	75 1/2	75
United States Express	75 1/2	75

THE TREASURY BUSINESS was at a very low rate of interest in the street to-day, a Washington despatch that the supplementary act and bill, being accustomed to play safe and addle all their lives, do not comprehend an independent journalist in the trials and temptations of Wall Street. After Pacific Mail, Erie, Ohio and Northwestern were the favorites; but the speculation was of an exceedingly tame order, the widest fluctuation being 1½ per cent and tapering off to ½ per cent. At the close the market had reacted from the lowest point and was nearly at the highest point of the day. The following were the highest and lowest prices of stocks during the day:

Gold, which opened at 114 1/2 this morning, went off to 113 1/2, this reduction being the combined effect of the tariff amendments and reports concerning the treaty. The market was extremely dull, however, and the business was much below the average of the week. In the loan market the rate ranged from flat for borrowing to 7 per cent for carrying. The customs receipts for the day were \$357,000. The Assistant Treasurer paid \$357,000 on account of five-months' redemption and \$250,000 on account of interest on the public debt. The engagements reported for the shipment of specie to-morrow amount to \$500,000. The operations of the Gold Exchange Bank were as follows:—Gross clearings, \$46,332,000; gold balances, \$1,065,639; currency balances, \$1,065,639. Gold closed 113 1/2, bid to 113 1/2-16 asked.

The money market has worked easily throughout the day at 5 to 6 per cent on governments and 6 to 7 per cent on stocks, closing up with a pressure to place balances as low as 3 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND DOMESTIC UNCHANGED on the basis of 100% for bankers' 60 days sterling, and 110 1/2 for short sight.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE TREASURY BALANCES at the close of business to-day:

Item	Amount
Currency	\$13,000,000
Gold	\$10,000,000
Which are collectible	\$25,000,000

The Internal Revenue receipts to-day were \$350,000.

THE SUB-TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following is to-day's business at the office of the United States Sub-Treasurer:

Item	Amount
Gold receipts	\$240,550
Gold payments	\$240,550
Currency receipts	\$2,600,820
Currency payments	\$2,600,820
Currency balance	\$444,616

SALES AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 17—10:15 A. M.

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